

2
ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-18WASHINGTON STAR (GREEN LINE)
14 DECEMBER 1978

STAT

Letters to the editor

Regarding President Carter's criticism of the quality of the American intelligence service's forecasts of foreign political developments, such as the present turmoil in Iran, he seems to forget that it is no secret that members of the American intelligence community are going through hell in order to serve their country in spite of libertarian members of Congress, disenchanted former employees (aided by a few vultures in the news media), and those who would do violence to our form of government.

The president also seems to forget that he appointed the CIA's present director who, in a naive and showboat manner, fired over 800 employees in the fall of 1977. Experienced people in the intelligence community criticized this action because the director was putting too much emphasis on technical collection of data and not enough on people-fashioned spying. This was denied by Admiral Turner. I believe that he is living to regret that massacre of CIA employees.

As one American, I believe that Admiral Turner has done his damage and should resign. If not, the president should ask for his resignation. To have Admiral Turner continue as CIA director is a disservice to the country. We don't need a Bert Lance-type in the intelligence community.

James T. Hammett
Arlington, Va.